

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (previously amended): An airbag apparatus,  
comprising:

an airbag module;

at least one covering device having a closing position and an open position;

an airbag configured to expand by gas inflation, said airbag being accommodated behind said at least one covering device when said at least one covering device is in the closing position;

a mechanism configured to pull said at least one covering device from the closing position to the open position in order to allow an expansion of the airbag;

said mechanism (M) including a first mechanism component (M1), which is coupled firmly to the airbag module (B), and a second

mechanism component (M2), which is coupled firmly to the  
covering device (K);

said airbag module (B) forming, together with the first  
mechanism component (M1), a unit ready for installation; and

said second mechanism component being configured to be  
installed separately from said first mechanism component.

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Claim 2 (currently amended): The airbag apparatus according  
to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, during mounting and  
dismounting, the first mechanism component (M1) and the second  
mechanism component (M2) ~~, in principle,~~ do not touch one  
another and are coupled to one another only in a crash.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The airbag apparatus according  
to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein traction elements,  
traction ropes (1) or traction bands (16) are mounted, as  
integral parts of the second mechanism component (M2), on or  
within a reinforcing box (4) which supports an orifice (O) for  
the emergence of the airbag in an instrument panel (V).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The airbag apparatus according  
to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the traction  
elements, as integral parts of the second mechanism component

(M2), are combined in a hook (5) positioned in relation to at least one driving bolt (10, 15, 19, 22, 27) as an integral part of the first mechanism component (M1), in turn as integral parts of the second mechanism component (M2).

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second mechanism component (M2) of the coupling mechanism (M) and coverings thereof are led through pockets (13), which are integrated in an extruded profile of the airbag housing (G), and, on the opposite side, through putaways of ~~[[the]]~~ a reinforcing box (4).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The airbag apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a rope loop or traction band loop (17) and correspondingly shaped or bent driving bolts (15) are provided.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A mounting method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mechanism (M) contains a first mechanism component (M1) which is coupled firmly to the airbag module (B), so that the airbag module (B) forms, together with the first mechanism

component (M1), a unit ready for installation, and contains a second mechanism component (M2) which is coupled firmly to the covering device (K), and in that, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus (A) behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component (M1) is brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component (M2).

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The mounting method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus (A) behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component (M1) and the second mechanism component (M2) are coupled to one another.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An operating method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first mechanism component (M1) and the second mechanism component (M2) are coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus.

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